SUFFOLK NANSEMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 22, Issue 3 August 2013

Ocean View postcard from usgwarchives.net

Wish You Were Here -
Summer Vacation Scrapbook

Everybody appreciates a change of scene every now and then. A hundred years ago when air conditioning consisted of shade trees and awnings, change involved seeking cool breezes whether for a day, a week, or a month, depending on what one's pocketbook could manage.

Ocean View was a popular destination a century ago. The train to Portsmouth, the ferry to Norfolk and the trolley to Ocean View were the way to go before the automobile was so much a part of daily life. Some perhaps better heeled members of the community might take the train west to the mountains seeking a longer respite from the heat.

As the car became more popular many scrapbooks in our collection indicate that there were frequent visits to historic Virginia sites.

And then there were the people who vacationed—summered actually—locally. In the first half of the 20th century some families from old Suffolk chose to spend their summer on the Nansemond River or Bennett's Creek and constructed vacation homes there.

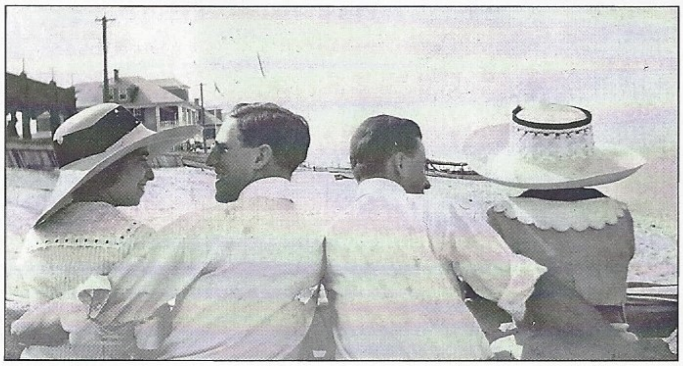
In this summer issue, begun during what has been declared the hottest week of the summer, we share some items from our collections and from friends and one postcard from the internet.

This photo, identified as Ocean View 1910*, is from the Lehman family scrapbook, SNHS collection. The Lehmans were a prominent Jewish family who built the house on the SW corner of Bank and Pinner Streets—later the Woman's Club.*

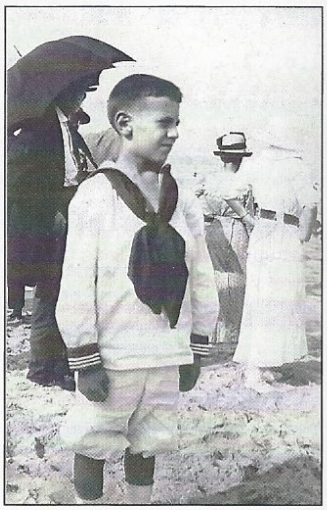
Beaches

From ***this week in history***
The Virginian-Pilot, 07.21.13

"1913
The occupants of cottages lining the beach at Ocean View in Norfolk have organized bowling clubs that have become all the rage on the boardwalk alleys during the midsummer evenings. It is reported that many of the young ladies on the teams have developed quite the skill in scoring in the game and many prizes have been won."



Ocean View 1910, Lehman collection



"The summer after I graduated from Holland High School I was invited by Papa's friends, Mr. and Mrs. McLean, to go with them to Ocean View on vacation. I took ham, eggs, chicken, corn and apples to help with the meals while I was there. Mr. McLean came to the house for me and the ride was a thrill as we went right down Granby Street in Norfolk to the cottage which was named 'Wave Crest.' The Tuxedo Inn was next door. Every afternoon late we went swimming with me wearing a swimsuit borrowed from a neighbor. At night we went to the casino to hear George Mill's band play and afterwards looked over the amusement park before we went back to the cottage. A ride on the Merry-Go-Round was 10 cents. Mrs. McLean took me uptown on my first bus and streetcar ride and we went to all the big department stores. When it was time to come home Mr. McLean drove me to Suffolk and I caught the bus to Holland where I waited two and one-half hours before Papa came to pick me up. Everybody seemed glad to see me when I returned home and wanted to hear all about my adventures."

From *Life Warmed Over, Reflections from the Life of Mamie Weaver Rountree, 1909-1990.* Compiled and Edited by Doris Rountree Glenn

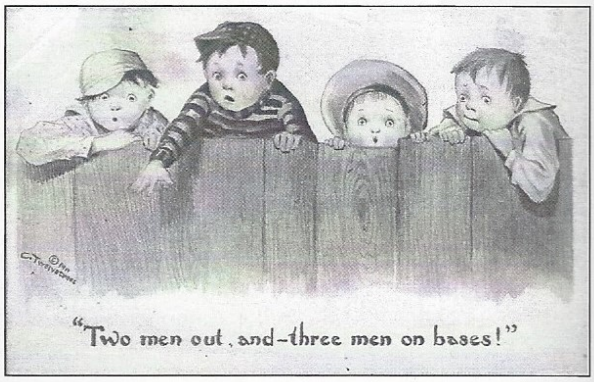
Mamie Weaver lived at Box Elder. This visit to Ocean View was around 1928.

Dr. and Mrs. Dawson with Gerard at Virginia Beach 1930. Mdme. Dawson's suit might have been the kind that Mamie Weaver borrowed. Dawson collection

Baseball—Fun at Home

The picture below is very likely an 1897 picture. In 1897 Suffolk fielded one of its earliest organized baseball teams, as a part of the Southeastern League. Suffolk's team was managed by local attorney S.P. Vanderslice. The rules of the league included a salary cap of no more than $40.00 per month and board for each player, and no club could have more than three "professionals." The league played an 18-game schedule that year. *Fred Taylor*

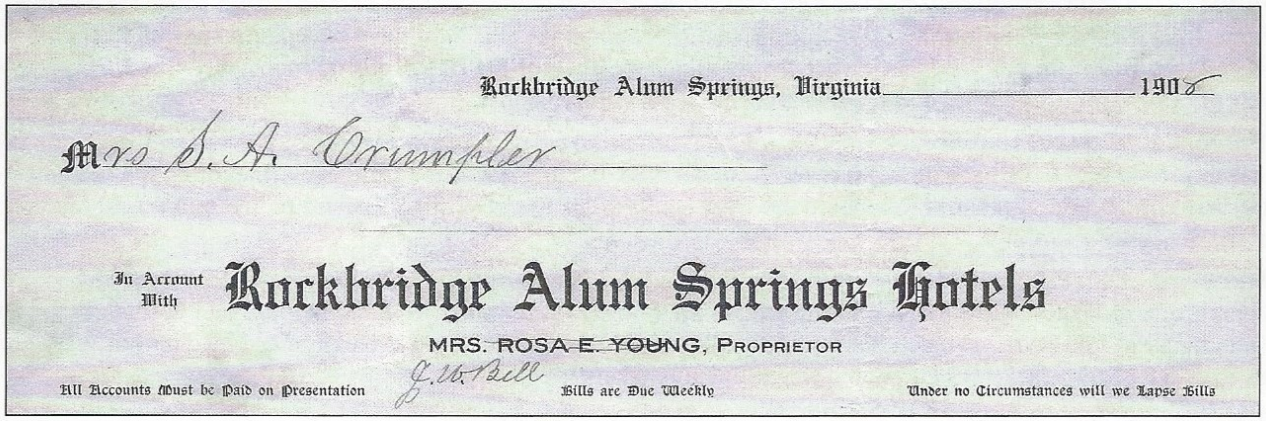
Jesse Harrell photo, SNHS collection



1911 postcard from the Ida Lee Alston Ferguson scrapbook.

Mountains

Mr. and Mrs. William Crumpler and their son William, Jr., of Bank Street were among those who sought cool mountain breezes. Items in our collections indicate that the neighbors—the Phillips, the Joneses, the Withers—went to the mountains as well. These letterheads and billheads from 1908, 1921 and 1923; Crumpler collection.

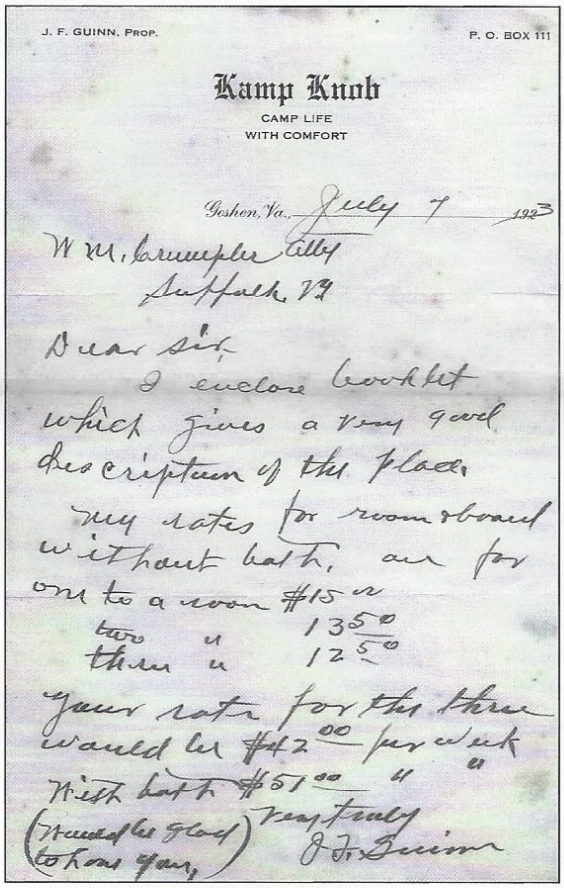

Rockbridge Alum Springs, Virginia 1908

Mrs S. A. Crumpler

In Account With **Rockbridge Alum Springs Hotels**

MRS. ROSA E. YOUNG, PROPRIETOR

All Accounts Must be Paid on Presentation — J. W. Bell — Bills are Due Weekly — Under no Circumstances will we Lapse Bills


J. F. GUINN, PROP. P. O. BOX 111

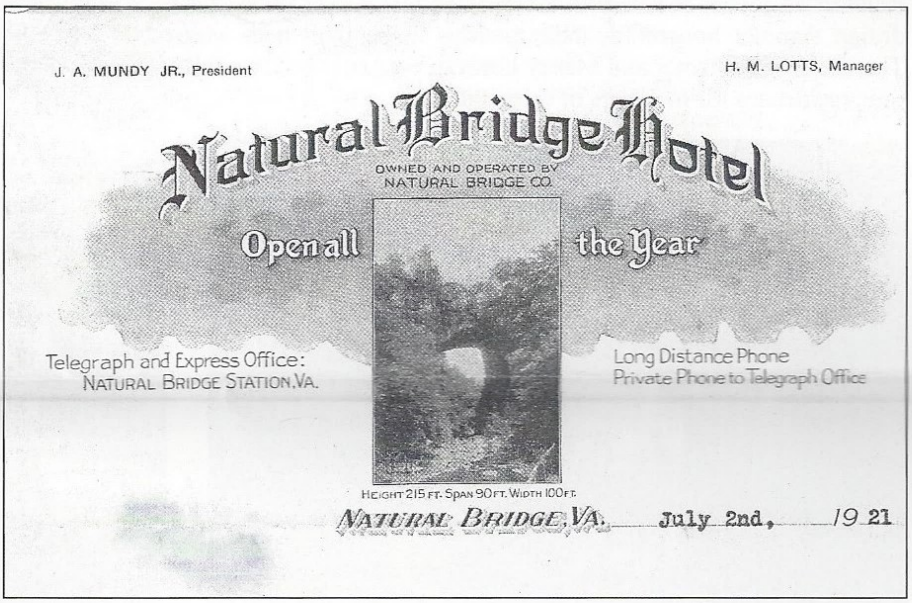
Kamp Knob

CAMP LIFE WITH COMFORT

Goshen, Va. July 7 1923

W. M. Crumpler Esq
Suffolk, Va

Dear Sir,
I enclose booklet which gives a very good description of the place.
My rates for room & board without bath, are for one to a room $15.00
two " 13.50
three " 12.50
Your rate for the three would be $42.00 per week
With bath $51.00 "
(Would be glad to have you,) Very truly J. F. Guinn


J. A. MUNDY JR., President — H. M. LOTTS, Manager

Natural Bridge Hotel

OWNED AND OPERATED BY NATURAL BRIDGE CO.

Open all the Year

Telegraph and Express Office: NATURAL BRIDGE STATION, VA.

Long Distance Phone
Private Phone to Telegraph Office

HEIGHT 215 FT. SPAN 90 FT. WIDTH 100 FT.

NATURAL BRIDGE, VA. July 2nd, 1921

Seeing Historic Sites

Numerous old Suffolk/Nansemond County scrapbooks in our possession make it clear—visiting historic sites in Virginia was the thing to do once cars were widely available.

1921

CAMPING PARTY IS BACK FROM TRIP

Suffolk, Sept. 5.—Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Ballard, Misses Jamie Felton, Brownie Riddick, Marion Beale, Beatrice Saunders, Messrs. Henry Rawles, Holland Ballard and Richard Darden have returned from a delightful camping party. They camped on the grounds at Camp Washington, Yorktown, Va., near Nectar Springs, for a week.

Boating, fishing and swimming were enjoyed, as well as a number of motor trips to the points of interest around Yorktown.

Campers included Misses Beatrice Saunders, Brownie Riddick, Jamie Felton, Marion Beale, chaperone Mrs. Arthur Ballard, Mr. Ryland Darden, Mr. Arthur Ballard, Mr. Holland Ballard. Henry A. Rawles, Jr., collection. (Pardon our reuse of this photo.)

River and Creek Houses

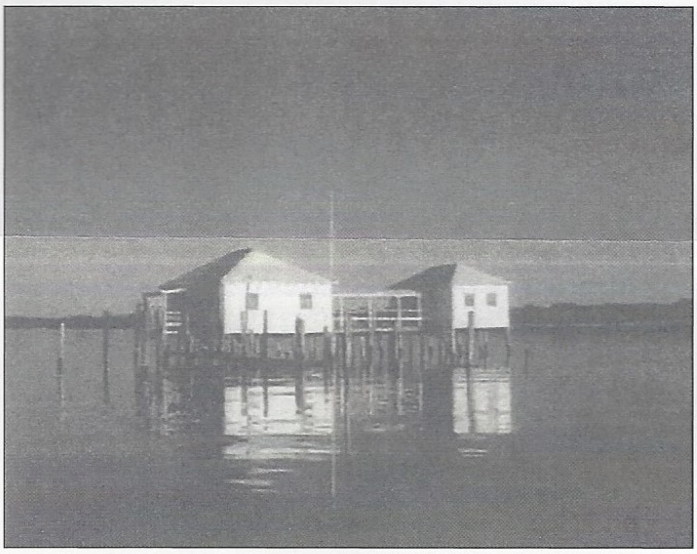
In the 1920s, '30s and '40s, some Suffolk families chose to build summer residences on (in) the Nansemond River and Bennett's Creek. There were already some pleasure houses (as they were listed on deeds) owned by groups of people, the best known being Nix Club.

In 1927 soon after Jack Nurney (Sr.) and his bride were married they decided to build a simple house for summer living on the Lee Farm, long owned by her family. The chicken house occupied the best spot with sweeping views of Bennett's Creek and Hampton Roads. It was from this spot that earlier family members watched the Battle of the Ironclads in 1862. The view and the breezes were good. So the house known as the Shack replaced the chicken house.

The Nurneys—mother, father, Jack and Gin—would move to the Creek as soon as school was out and stay until Labor Day. Jack, Sr., went into town to work each day. Jack, Jr., spent his time on the water fishing and exploring, or on the farm playing in the fields or the barn. He would sometimes row out to the river house of his friend William Ballard or William would row to Lee Farm and stay at the Shack for a few days.

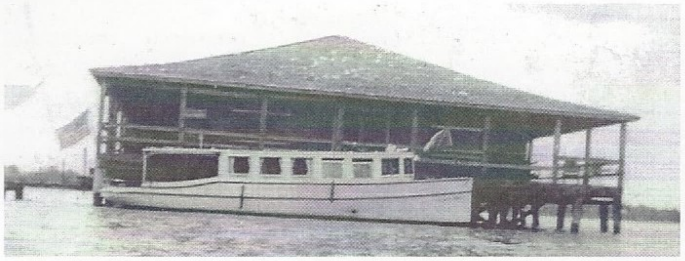
Jack loved life at the Shack but his sister Gin always missed town and her friends though she developed lifelong friends at the creek. Ironically in adulthood Jack and his wife wound up living downtown and Gin and her husband eventually went to live in the main farm house at Lee Farm. A much improved Shack is now home to one of Gin's children and his family. We regret that we have no photo of the Shack. Jack says his people weren't picture takers.

Miss Therese Nurney (sister of Jack, Sr.) built a small summer house on Bennett's Creek in the 1930s. In the late 1940s Dr. Richardson Joyner of Chestnut Street and attorney Anderson Maxey of South Broad Street hired Norfolk architect Paul Woodward to design summer houses for their families to be built near Miss Therese's. The Joyner and Maxey houses eventually became full-time residences for members of those families.



The Ballard clubhouse, summer home of the A.W. Ballards. Mrs. Ballard and the children were here when the storm struck in 1933. Mrs. Ballard kept a weather-eye out and, at low tide, they left to go to a friend's house in Driver to ride out the storm. Photo courtesy Robert Hall Ballard.

Above and below: The Anderson Maxey house and the dock crossing the marsh to deep water. A rowboat was kept at the dock and fishing and crabbing were favorite pastimes. Photo c. 1950 courtesy Andy Maxey.



Nix Club was owned by a group of people. The story of the Birdsong clan's adventures here during the 1933 hurricane is well known. This photo was taken on a calm day earlier that summer and the boat belonged to Col. R.L. Brewer. Evelyn Daughtrey scrapbook.

Thanks to our 2013 members, received as of July 29, 2013.

Our memberships run with the calendar year.

Benefactor ($1,000+)
Cornell, Phyllis & George
O'Connor, Tommy

Sponsor ($500+)
Adams, Jim & Dana
Birdsong, Cabell & Mary Jane
Butler, Mr. & Mrs. F. Prince
Darden, Bill & Bruce
Darden, Jr., Mr. & Mrs. Austin T.
Johnson, Mr. & Mrs. Jeff
McNeal, Dorris
Stockman, Nan & Charles
Walker, Miley & Jean
Woodward, Thomas & Shannon
Woodward, Tom & Sue

Patron ($250+)
Bagnell, Judge & Mrs. Everett
Baker, Robert & Marie
Barlow, Joe & Lynn
Birdsong, Everett & Miriam
Blair, George & Charnell
Blair, James M.
Chase, James S.
Crocker, James E.
Cross, III, Mr. & Mrs. Harry L.
Cross, IV, Mr. & Mrs. Harry Lee
Gordon, Jim & Elizabeth
Herman, Steve
Hobbs, Kermit & Earlene
Kincaid, Mr. & Mrs. Douglas
Maxey, Jr., M. Anderson
Nahra, Ralph
Webb, Joe & Nancy

Friend ($100+)
Adams, Jimmy & Hannah
Alwood, Bob & Fran
Barnett, Maxine E.
Barrett, Thomas and Jennie
Barry, Richard & Carolyn
Birdsong, Mr. George Y.
Bosselman, David and Audrey
Brinkley, Mrs. Elsie
Bunch, Dan
Butler, James E. & Linda
Carmean, Byron & Jean
Cherry, Jackie and O.L.
Clanton, William and Victoria
Council, John M. & Anne M.
Council, Michael & Kenda
Councill, Sandra
Cross, Lynn & Hugh
Dalzell, Mrs. Daniel V.
Damiani, Andy
Debranski, Mike & Marty Beamon
Dempsey, Sandy & Nancy
Donahue, Brian and Susannah
Donnelly, Robert
Duggan, Bill & Hunter
Ellis, John C., Jr.
Evans, Richard & Eleanor
Farris, Carl & Denise
Frazier, Henry
Friend, Marianna
Frohman, Carroll Godwin
Gardner, George and Carol
Garrett, James & Susan
Godwin, Judge & Mrs. James C.
Habel, Jim & Becky
Happel, Mrs. Constance Reid
Harrell, Bob & Pearl
Harrell, Mr. & Mrs. John C.
Harry, Courtenay
Henderson, Bert & Anne
Henderson, Charlie & Donna
House, Pat
Howell, Patricia S.
Jackson, Mr. & Mrs. Stephen R.
Joyner, William & Mary Brenda
Kerpelman, Howard E.
Kyle, Betty Anne
Matthews, Catherine Harrell
McCutcheon, Charlotte A.
McPhail, Phil & Barbara
Mountcastle, Myrtle Ann
Musick, Susan
Newsom, Sarah N.
Nixon, LaRoyce & Carroll
Norcross, John & Cleta
Odom, Betty & Henry
Picot, Sharon & Julien
Pond, Dick & Sylvia
Pond, Wayland & Kathryn
Powell, Bill & Roberta
Pretlow, Lila E.
Pruden, III, Peter
Pruden, Mrs. Phyllis H.
Pruitt, John & Judy
Rawls, Frank & Sally
Riddick, Larry & Mary Anne
Rose, Lynn K.
Saunders, Mack & Ruth
Saunders, Whitney & Ellen
Savage, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas
Sherard, Sam & Mary
Shotton, Charles & Carol Lynne
Simmer, Edward & Peggy
Simpson, Polly & Henry
Small, Holmes & Lena
Smith, Pat Holladay
Spaulding, Susan
Taylor, Fred & Adrienne
Totten, Mr. & Mrs. Danny
Verdirame, Dr. & Mrs. Joseph L.
Williams, Jesse & Mary
Woodward, Susan C.A.
Woolford, N. Polk
Yeoman, Beverly & Phil Rehrig
Young, Hubert & Christine

Contributing ($50+)
Ascher, David C.
Baggett, Dennis
Bailey, Bill & Annette
Bialobrzewski, Angela
Bollinger, Dixie & Stan
Bowman, Marie & Lee
Bradshaw, James & Becky
Bright, John & Vera
Brothers, Mr. & Mrs. Tom S.
Bunting, Bill & Sandra
Byrum, Jarvis R. & Phyllis C.
Byrum, Joseph & Gloria
Callis, George & Susan
Carr, Scott & Heather
Carter, Barbara & John
Clement, Becky & Joe
Click, Anne Scott N.
Cross, Parker
Davis, Sue H.
Drummond, Linda & Billy
Duke, Lydia G.
Fitzgerald, Shirley R.
Fulgham, Dr. & Mrs. William
Gatling, George
Goldberg, Don & Kay
Harlow, John
Harrell, Faye S.
Hazelwood, Thomas & Karen
Helms, Linda L. & Bill
House, David
House, Jr., Rob & Denson
Howe, Jr., Mr.& Mrs. Frederic N.
Hughes, Glenn & Karen
Hurley, Bucky & Kay
Jaffe, Mr. & Mrs. Gerald
Johnson, David A.
Johnson, John & Julie
Kapinus, Ed & Barbara
Kelley, Kermit & Frances
King, Lee & Henrietta
Lawing, Victoria
Leach, Grace & Jack
Little, John F.
Maust, Randy & Jeanette
McLemore, Mardane
Moore, Jim & Jane
Nemish, John & Janet
Odom, Hunter and Linda
Panton, Fan G.
Pettit, Jack & Sarah
Pichel, Mr. & Mrs. M. R.
Poole, Conley & Eleanor G.
Porter, Elizabeth V.
Poulson, Mrs. Melvin B.
Powell, Bill & Roberta
Pruden, Tom & Gail
Rau, Jeff
Rountree, Blanche E.
Salmon, Jim & Elaine
Saunders, Martha
Schaubach, Dwight & Jane
Schlatter Family
Sobel, Faye
Speight, Bennie & Bonnie
Taylor, Mr. & Mrs. John R.
Thomas, Sid & Janice
Tompert, Robert & Leila
Trump, Joyce H.
Trump, Jr., Bobby Lee
Tyler, Stewart
West, Jack & Barbara
White, Jimmy & Hazel
Williams, Nancy
Williams, Richard & Sue
Wills-Hunter, Harriet

Winslow, Burwell & Alvis
Wooldridge, Joyce & Bill

Supporting ($25+)
Abernathy, Charles M. & Ann B.
Arthur, Gene & Brenda
Arthur, Tommy & Jane
Austin, Fred H.
Ballard, Mary B.
Barrett, Harold and June
Bilby, Sean C. & Dana
Brinkley, Mr. & Mrs. David L.
Brooks, Elizabeth Dixon
Brown, Al
Burns, Victor & Mary
Burton, Sue P.
Butler, Gary
Cathey, Mr. & Mrs. Forrest H.
Chandler, Sue Hundley
Cook, Darrell E.
Coulbourne, Robert
Crumpler, John & Terri
Darden, Charles & Yvonne
Davis, Dianne Harrell
Dolan, Elizabeth Brothers
Ellis, Glenn E.
Eure, Jack & Mary Ann
Everett, Anne P.
Faircloth, John & Nancy
Fausel, Mary Anne & George
Fitzhugh, Berry
Gardner, Jr., David B.
Greene, Dutch & Ann
Haas, Conrad & Marie
Hare, Steve
Harms, Jean H.
Harper, Linda Howerton
Harry, Jack & Billie
Hart, F. Lee, III
Hightower, Howard & Jennifer
Hollowell, Sandra LoCascio
Humphrey, Faye Gordon
Hunter, JoAnn S.
Hyatt, Ramona
Irby, Skip & Chris
James, Linda Annas
Jennings, James L.
Jones, JoAnn Harrell
Jones, Stephen M.
Kalie, Jennie Lee Cross
Kirchmier, Beverley
Kirkpatrick, E. Stuart
Kress, Jack
Lane, Cindy
Latimer, III, Mr. & Mrs. Arthur L.
Lowe, Sue Draper
Lynch, Bill
Mansfield, Bob & Charlotte
March, Clyde V.
Martin, Thomas L.
McGahee, Terry & Beverly
Milligan, Anna Vann
Morgan, Marian V.
Mottley, Terry & Irma R.
Newhard, John
Norfleet, Dr. & Mrs. Ben
Nurney, Ann & Jack
O'Connor, Betsy T.
Odom, Polly Vann
Olsen, Ted
Owens, Sr., Carlton W.
Parker, David & Judy
Parker, Jim & Nancy
Peachy, Bill & Dixie
Pettit, Tom
Pisani, Cheryl A.
Pond, III, Richard & Jen
Ralph, Bobby L. & Joyce
Ray, Patsy Powell
Riddick, Linda
Roberts, Surry
Rountree, Steven and Wanda
Ruden, Iris
Rudin, Shirley Boyette
Russell, Jr., Mr.& Mrs. C. Edward
Sanderson, Mrs. Nancy Bruce
Saunders, Bruce P.
Savage, III, W. R.
Seiling, Edith
Sledge Jr., Mr. & Mrs. Charles R.
Smith, Audrey P.
Stallings, Billie
Staylor, Mills & Gin
Taylor, Cindy
Thanos, Voula
Thompson, Terri V.
Trostle, Henry and Melinda
Umphlette, Mr. & Mrs. L. Carrol
Walsh-Johnson, Mary H.
Ward, Gordon Carter
Watterson, Nita
Webb, Joby & Mindy
White, Don & Nancy
Winslow, Sharon
Wommack, Jane B.
Young, Molly & Rutledge

We are grateful for all gifts and apologize for any accidental omissions. If we have made an error in acknowledging your contribution please contact us at 757-539-2781 or snhs@verizon.net.

Postscripts

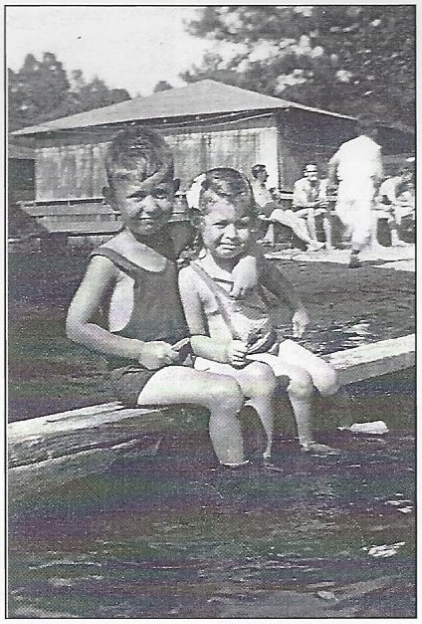
To our September 2011 issue, School Days in Nansemond County:

We indicated that Bethlehem School closed in 1925 per a letter from the Nansemond County School Board. In fact, Bethlehem High School closed but Bethlehem School remained open for students in the lower grades into the mid 20th century.

To our February 2010 issue, Remembering Franklin Street:

From ***this week in history***
The Virginian-Pilot, 06.23.13

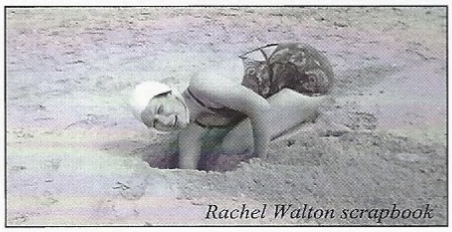
"1913
Residents of Franklin Street in Suffolk complain that street sprinklers haven't visited their stretch of unpaved roadway in more than two weeks and that the dust is intolerable."



Bill and Margaret Taylor, children of Mr. & Mrs. Harry P. Taylor, at Conan Beach, c. 1933. Conan Beach was on the Nansemond River at Pitchkettle Road in sight of the Lake Cohoon dam. Now Lake Meade covers the spot. Photo courtesy Mr. & Mrs. Joe Barlow.

Calendar
See Inserts for details

September 7
Heirloom Sale, 9am-2pm
Train Station Book Signing 11am-3pm
September 8
Lecture Series, 2pm
October 5
Touch a Truck, Train & More, 11am-3pm
October 13
Fall Member Meeting, 2 pm
December 7 & 8
37th Annual Candlelight Tour, 1pm-5pm



Blythe Artman at Virginia Beach c 1940

Thanks to our 2013 corporate members:

Bank Street Circle ($2,500+)

Birdsong Peanuts

Nansemond Circle ($1,000+)

FARMERS BANK
Community Banking Perfected

Suffolk Circle ($500+)

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LeOtis Williams, Manager
Complete Landscaping Services
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Suffolk, VA 23439
Phone (757) 925.0747
Fax (757) 925.4943
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Seaboard Circle ($250+)

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PHS Board
Lee King, President
Sue Woodward, Secretary
Lynn Barlow, Treasurer
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SNHS Board
Fred Taylor, President
Lynn Cross, Vice President
Kate Cross, Secretary
Tommy Arthur, Asst. Treas.
Sue Woodward, Historian
Sandra Councill
Susannah Donahue
Lee King
Susan Musick
Nancy Verdirame
Nita Bagnell, *ex officio*

Gifts and Memorials
through July 29, 2013

In memory of:
John P. Thanos
Everett & Nita Bagnell
Tom & Sue Woodward

For the Phillips-Dawson House
Suffolk Rotary Club

The Phillips-Dawson House

A Home for Local History
Street address: 137 Bank St., Suffolk, VA 23434
Mailing address: P. O. Box 1255, Suffolk VA 23439
Phone: 757-539-2781 — snhs@verizon.net
www.suffolkhistory.org
Julie Johnson, Administrative Director

Suffolk's Most Recognizable Landmark
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Mailing address: P. O. Box 1255, Suffolk, VA 23439
Phone: 757-923-4750
Email: kirsty@suffolktrainstation.org
Kirsty Reyes, Train Station Coordinator

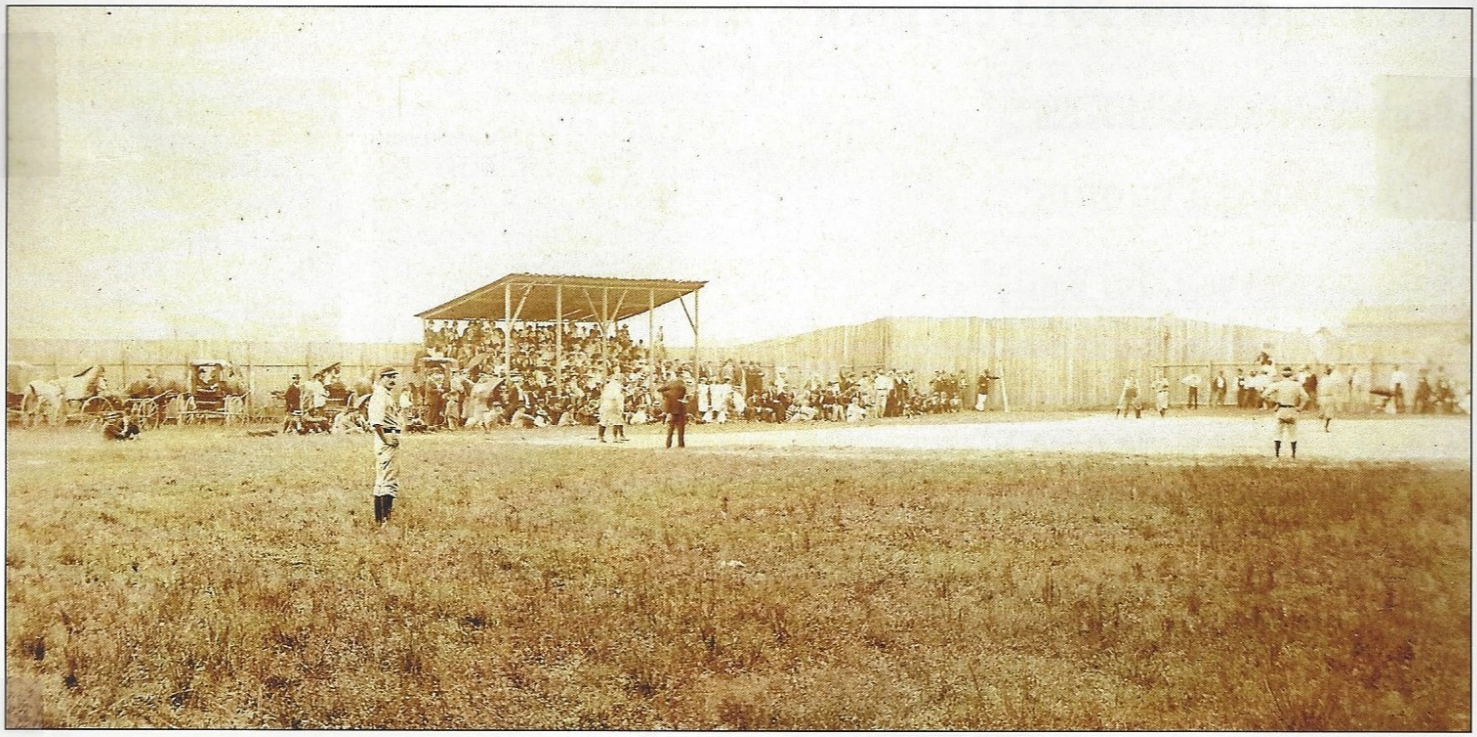
From the Train Station

Volunteers Needed! How long has it been since you visited the Train Station? We continue to operate Wednesday—Sunday and have 9 volunteer slots to fill each week. The shifts are only 2 1/2 hours long and we welcome anyone who may be interested. While there volunteers greet guests, help in the gift shop, answer the phone, put labels on new items, lead group tours and occasionally do a few small housekeeping chores. Give Kirsty a call at 923-4750.

Thanks to the following people who are regular volunteers: Tommy Arthur, Marie Baker, Joe & Lynn Barlow, Mary Ann Barnes, Allen Bryant, the Ciaston family, Kay & Donnie Goldberg, Conrad Haas, P.W. Harris, Anne & Bert Henderson, Karen Hughes, Betty Ann Kyle, Bill Lynch, Barbara McPhail, Sarah Newsom, Henry Odom, Mark Oglesby, Lila Pretlow, Susan Reynolds, Frances Richardson, Charles Sledge, Patrick Suttle, Bob Tompert, Wayne Williams.

Book Signing — Sept. 7, 11am—3pm by Aubrey Wiley, author of the new book, *Virginia Railway Heritage Trail*

Touch a Truck, Train & More — Oct. 5, 11am--3pm Lots of trucks, trains and vehicles to see and touch with many great activities for children. Don't miss this fun activity! [See color insert.]



The baseball field in Suffolk 1896 or '97. Some spectators arrived by horse and buggy. This is apparently the field that would later be known as Peanut Park. Photo by Jesse Harrell; SNHS collection.

SUFFOLK NANSEMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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Suffolk, Virginia 23439-1255

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Cousins Anne Bradshaw (L) and Evelyn Daughtrey (R) with friends about 1941. Anne Bradshaw Roundtree collection